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Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
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at 11 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 53rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. DINU (Romania)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 12.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 104: PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993 (continued) (A/C.5/47/L.20)

Draft report of the Fifth Committee (A/C.5/47/L.20)

1. Mr. OSELLA (Argentina), Rapporteur, introducing document A/C.5/47/L.20, noted that section II summarized the actions taken by the Fifth Committee during its current session broken down by section of the budget with an indication of their effect on the approved programme budget for the current biennium. In total, those actions had resulted in net increases of $78,804,300 in the approved level of appropriations and net increases of $21,803,100 in the approved estimates of income. Section IV contained the recommendations of the Fifth Committee, consisting of draft resolutions I and II and draft decisions I, II and III.

2. Under part A of draft resolution II, the General Assembly would resolve that the amount of the initial appropriation, $2,389,234,900, would be increased by $78,804,300 to a total of $2,468,039,200. Under part B of draft resolution II the total income approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, $449,213,300, would be increased by $21,803,100 to a total of $471,016,400. Part C of draft resolution II provided for an assessment on Member States for the year 1993 of $1,233,245,435 before the application of credits for staff assessment or of $1,015,204,535 net of staff assessment.

3. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) asked whether it was not usual to include in the Committee's report a list of the items on which the Committee had decided, without a vote, to recommend that the General Assembly appropriate the required amounts.

4. Mr. STITT (United Kingdom) said it did not speak well for the seriousness of the Committee's work that it should be asked to take action on a final document on appropriations on the very last morning of the General Assembly.

5. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that he agreed completely with the representative of the United Kingdom. It seemed to him, also, that the failure to include in the Committee's draft report a statement of all the financial implications of recommendations made by the Fifth Committee represented a serious lacuna in the Committee's work which he hoped that the Secretariat would remedy in the future.

6. Mr. DUVAL (Director of the Programme Planning and Budget Division), replying to the representative of the Netherlands, said that a breakdown of statements of programme budget implications and revised estimates and the amounts consequently drawn from the contingency fund was not usually included in the Fifth Committee's report; it was, however, contained in a separate

document, in the present case document A/C.5/47/85. The sections of the draft report referring to decisions concerning deferrals would, of course, have to be revised in the light of the decisions taken at the Fifth Committee's 52nd meeting, as the representative of the Netherlands had pointed out; that would be done by the Secretariat in due course.

7. Replying to the representative of the United Kingdom, he said that the sole reason for the submission of the draft report at such a late date was the effect on the Fifth Committee's decision-making process of the scheduling of decisions in the other Main Committees of the General Assembly.

8. Replying to the Japanese representative, he said that, although the Committee's draft report contained only a summary of the financial implications of its decisions, those implications were reported to the Assembly in their entirety in the statements of programme budget implications submitted separately to the plenary Assembly in connection with the reports of the other Main Committees.

9. Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands) said it would be helpful to add a third paragraph to part C of draft resolution II giving the final figure for the total amount of the assessment on Member States for the year 1993.

10. Mr BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that the suggestion was a good one and if it was not done in the case of the current resolution it would certainly be done in the future.

11. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution I without a vote.

12. It was so decided.

13. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution II without a vote.

14. It was so decided.

15. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt its draft report (A/C.5/47/L.20) without a vote.

16. It was so decided.

AGENDA ITEM 111: SCALE OF ASSESSMENTS FOR THE APPORTIONMENT OF THE EXPENSES OF THE UNITED NATIONS (continued) (A/C.5/47/L.22)

17. The CHAIRMAN suggested, on the basis of the informal consultations of the previous night, that action on draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.22 should be deferred, together with other unfinished business under agenda item 111, until the resumed session.

18. It was so decided.

19. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had concluded its consideration of agenda item 111 for the first part of the current session, and requested the Rapporteur to report thereon directly to the General Assembly.

COMPLETION OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK

20. After an exchange of courtesies, the CHAIRMAN declared that the Fifth Committee had completed its work for the first part of the forty-seventh session.

The meeting rose at 1.15 p.m.